ISSN 0968-2147

ANIMAL WORLD

No 97 90p
May/June 1994

RSPCA

Check out our great badger poster

Take a peek at voles

WIN! WIN! WIN! An RSPCA Animal Trek

The days are getting longer and everyone at the RSPCA is gearing up for summer. Summer is quite a busy time for our inspectors because, despite all of our warnings, people still leave their dogs in hot cars. Even with the window open a parked car can become an oven in warm weather and dogs can suffer from severe heatstroke and even die. If you see a dog which you think is suffering in this way call the police or your local RSPCA - the number will be in the phonebook. Make sure you give them full details of the car - colour, make, registration and where it is.

Why not send off for our 'dogs die in hot cars' poster - it's a really good thing to put up at school and will certainly help to make people aware of the problem. Just send an A4 stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Supplies Department, at our usual address.

Michaela

Cover photo: Bruce Coleman Limited/Tony Deane

Editor *Animal World*: Michaela Miller
Assistant editor: Yolanda Brooks
Reporter: Martin O'Halloran
Production manager: Christine Elder
Editorial assistant: Clare Jefferis
Design and production: Two-Can Publishing Ltd
Art editor: Jenny Gabriel
Published by the RSPCA
Origination: Monarch LithoGravure Ltd
Printers: Southernprint

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HG
Telephone: (0403) 264181 Fax: (0403) 241048
Registered Charity No. 219099

The youth membership magazine of the RSPCA

Printed on environment-friendly paper.

Any part of this publication may be reproduced, in part or whole, with the exception of photographs, logos and illustrations, provided the source is acknowledged.

CONTENTS

4 WRITE ON

Do you have the star letter in this issue? Readers tell us about their news and views.

5 NEWS ROUND UP

Rhinos in danger, National Pet Week and much, much more. Find out which animals are making the headlines.

Bruce Coleman Limited/Jane Burton

8 ROVING REPORTER

Animal World catches up with globe-trotting *News-round* reporter Paul Welsh.

BBC

10 EMERGENCY!

RSPCA/Andrew Linscott

It's all go at the RSPCA's busy Manchester & Salford Clinic. *Animal World* reports...

13 FUN PAGE

Puzzle over our tricky teasers. Try to solve them if you can!

14 WORKING WITH ANIMALS

Take a look at the work of an RSPCA kennel assistant. It could be just the job for you!

RSPCA/D Featherstone

18 ACTION FOR ANIMALS

Find out what our fantastic fund-raisers have been up to.

21 CREATURE FEATURE

Take a close-up look at the tiny world of voles.

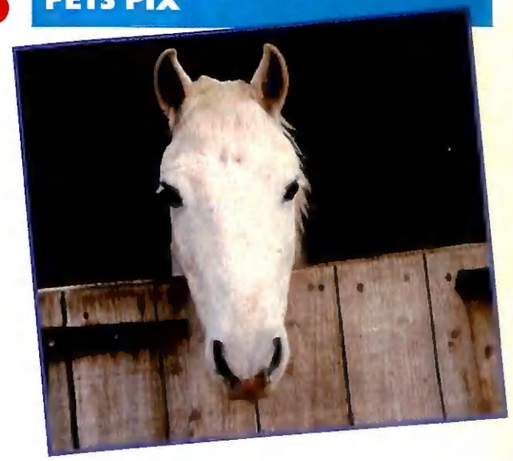
Bruce Coleman Limited/Jane Burton

24 PET CARE FEATURE

Having goldfish can be fun but they need a lot of looking after. *Animal World* tells you how.

Natural Science Photos/P Trevett

26 PETS PIX



Say cheese! Your pets pose for the camera.

28 CARE AWARDS

Have a go at our Care Awards and prove you're really animal-friendly.

30 FAME AT LAST

You show off your pictures and poems.

We want to know what you think about the RSPCA, animal welfare issues and the happy as well as sad experiences you have had with animals. Your letter could win a book and £5 to be donated to an RSPCA animal home or campaign of your choice. Send your letter with your name, age and address to: Write On, *Animal World*, RSPCA, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HG.

Puppy problem

I was disgusted to read about puppy farms in your January/February issue. How can people even consider buying their pets from these people when they could get one from the RSPCA. What can Animal Action Club members do about this problem?

Skevy Groutari (13)
Arnold, Notts

If you want to help, tell your friends and family about these awful places and warn them not to buy a puppy without seeing it with its mother and checking that it comes from a good home. Show them the Animal World *feature on puppy farming so that they can see for themselves what these places are like.*

Caring for rare species

Many animals are rare and may soon be extinct. Here are some animals which were once common but now are quite rare - pandas, tigers, gorillas, elephants and cheetahs. Animals are dying because they are losing their habitats. Rainforest is being cut down and many other awful things are happening. Elephants, for example, are being killed so that people can make jewellery out of their ivory tusks. I think that if everyone helped a little, there would be a big change in the world.

Hannah Sloane (12)
Camberley, Surrey

Fox watcher

I am writing to tell you about the fox that comes into our garden. It lives in a bush in our neighbour's garden and it goes on to the allotment at the back of our garden. We see it during the day but mostly at night. Seeing this fox so often has made me think about fox-hunting - it is so cruel, especially as hunters mostly do it for fun.

Emily Robson (10)
Morden, Surrey

Don't buy battery

I am writing to say about how much I disagree with the torture of battery hens. I know that if more people bought free-range eggs there wouldn't be any need for battery eggs in the shops. If anybody has a mum or dad who won't buy free-range eggs, please try to persuade them and tell them about the cruelty which goes on.

Stacey Moore (14)
Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire

Battery hens are kept closely confined in cages where they are unable to follow many of their natural instincts. Each hen has the space the size of a page from Animal World *in which to live. Such conditions cause immense suffering. Make sure you only buy eggs which are clearly labelled 'free-range' or 'perchery (barn)' eggs.*

International rescue

STAR LETTER

I am writing to thank you for the good work you do. In issue 95 of *Animal World* I read about the help you had given to animals in the Indian earthquake. Both my parents come from Sri Lanka, an island south of India. When I was last in India I saw that many Indian people depended on farm animals such as buffalos which work very hard in the fields pulling ploughs. They need all the help they can get.

Aruchuna Mohanaruban (10)
Haverfordwest, Dyfed

FLPA/C Mullen

NEWS ROUND UP

Rhino danger

Wildlife experts in Zimbabwe are trying desperately to save the white rhinos living in the Hwange National Park. To stop poachers killing the rhinos for their horn, wildlife rangers at the park have been removing the horns. But these latest efforts have failed as poachers continue to kill the rhinos to steal their horn stumps. There are only a few thousand rhinos left in Africa and rangers are now looking at new ways to protect these animals threatened by extinction.

Bruce Coleman Limited/Jane Burton

Poachers' target: Rhinos face extinction because they are hunted for their horns.

Aquila/Johan De Meester

Welcome return: Polecats are making a comeback in England and Wales.

POLECATS RETURN

For the first time in almost 100 years, wildlife experts have found polecats living all over Wales. After being trapped and shot for many years, polecats nearly disappeared from Wales during the early part of this century. They are also making a comeback in the English counties bordering Wales.

RSPCA

Charity in action: An artist's impression of an early RSPCA cruelty prosecution.

Happy Birthday to us

The RSPCA - that's the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals - is 170 years old this year. That makes the Society the oldest animal welfare charity in the world.

The Society was formed in 1824 by a group of people who were appalled at the cruelty taking place around them.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (as it was then called), was given the Royal seal of approval by Queen Victoria and in 1840 it became the RSPCA. The Society has had great influence over animal welfare issues and works hard to ensure that all animals are protected from cruelty.

NEWS ROUND UP

Continued from p 5

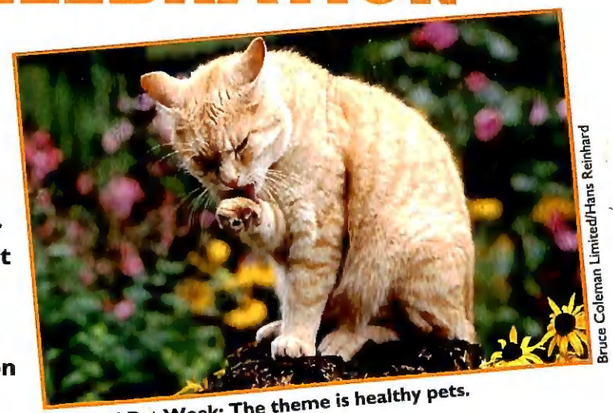
Natural Science Photos/M Harvey

Fires wipe out koalas

The RSPCA has donated £5,000 to Australian wildlife volunteers working to rescue koalas injured in the bush fires which swept through New South Wales. Some koalas which escaped have been found with their paws badly burned from walking on hot ashes and from climbing smouldering trees. Kangaroos and other wildlife have all been affected by these devastating fires.

PET CELEBRATION

It's National Pet Week again and hundreds of fantastic events on the theme of 'healthy people, healthy pets' are taking place all over Britain. National Pet Week runs from Saturday 30 April until Sunday 8 May, 1994. Keep an eye on your local press for events in your area.



Bruce Coleman Limited/Hans Reinhard

National Pet Week: The theme is healthy pets.

Spill alert

The RSPCA helped to save hundreds of birds caught up in a recent chemical spill off the Lancashire coast. Hundreds of birds were covered in a brown sticky substance after an accidental spillage and many died, but hundreds more were saved by the society.

RSPCA inspectors and volunteers searched local beaches and collected the birds, including scoters, great crested grebes and guillemots, for emergency care. They were then taken to the Society's West Hatch Wildlife Hospital in Somerset for specialist cleaning. More than 387 were saved and over 100 have already recovered and been released back into the wild.

RSPCA/Colin Fitzsimmons

Freedom: A cleaned bird is released

ANIMAL EXHIBITION

RSPCA/Alban Donohoe

Star appeal: Peter Simon at the RSPCA's Action for Animals exhibition.

Television celebrity Peter Simon joined pupils from the Cliff Lane Primary School in Ipswich at the RSPCA's Action for Animals exhibition at the Ipswich Museum. The presenter of *Star Pets* and *Live and Kicking* officially opened the free exhibition which features lots of exciting displays on the work of the RSPCA.

Badgers under threat

Three men have been sent to jail for killing two badgers after an RSPCA investigation. Undercover RSPCA inspectors and the police had been trailing these men for three months before they were caught red-handed in a wood near Chichester, West Sussex. The men had dug the badgers out of their underground sett and killed them. Badger gangs illegally kill thousands of badgers each year throughout the UK.

Bruce Coleman Limited/Hans Reinhard

RSPCA/David Featherstone

Fun for all: 'Best with children' is just one of the many classes to enter on the day.

Canine capers

Here's your chance to put your dog in the spotlight this summer. RSPCA Bounce Scruffts - the dog show for mongrels and crossbreeds - is back again! It will be held at the Cranleigh Showground, near Guildford, Surrey on Sunday 21 August 1994. 'Prettiest bitch', 'Most handsome dog' and the most coveted title of 'Britain's scruffiest dog' are just some of the classes to be held on the day. Look out for more information in the next issue of *Animal World*.

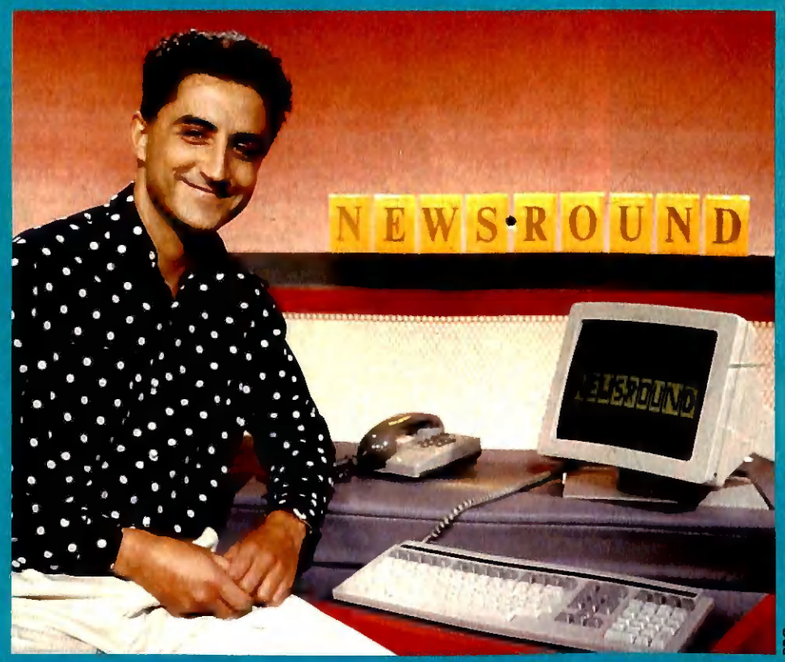
TREK UPDATE

If you're wondering what to do this summer, why not check out the RSPCA animal treks? These fantastic animal-friendly holidays are available to all Animal Action Club members between the ages of eight and 17. Animal treks give members the chance to meet lots of animals and find out more about animal welfare. The treks, which run through July and August 1994, include seal watching in Norfolk, a horse-drawn canal trip in Leicestershire and a moonlit badger watch on Dartmoor. You can win a free trek by entering our great competition on page 19.

For a copy of the RSPCA *Animal Treks 94* booklet, send a stamped A5 self-addressed envelope marked 'Treks' to: Education Department, RSPCA, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HG.

RSPCA/Colin Fitzsimmonds

Roving reporter



BBC

In the tropical forests of Thailand, hundreds of elephants are badly treated as they are forced to work in the illegal logging trade. Paul Welsh of the BBC's *Newsround* went to investigate and he talks to *Animal World* about the cruel business.

One hundred years ago there were over 100,000 elephants living in Thailand. Today there are only about 4,000 left. And as *Newsround* reporter Paul Welsh discovered when he visited the country, many are hidden away in the northern forests being overworked and mistreated. "We visited a hospital in Pang La where we saw one pathetic sad elephant whose leg had been broken three years ago after being crushed by a log. Because it had not been treated the elephant's bones set at right angles."

Forest care

This elephant is now getting proper veterinary treatment and will live out its natural life in the forest. There are another 30 elephants being treated at the hospital and they are all sick and very thin. "Some of the elephants that are found in the forest are in a complete state of exhaustion," says Paul. "Animal welfare workers believe the elephants have been drugged to make them work even harder."

The elephants are used in the illegal logging trade, says Paul, because they are so strong. One elephant can pull a tree weighing two tonnes. They are also cheaper and easier to use than machinery because they have no problems moving around the forest. The logging trade in Thailand is now illegal because much of the forest has disappeared. Paul revealed on *Newsround Extra* that in just 30 years, 50 per cent of Thailand's tropical forests have been chopped down.

The Thai government banned the trade, leaving thousands of elephants and their mahouts (handlers) with nothing to do. When the logging was legal, the elephants were well cared for. But when the business became illegal five years ago, and with no one to keep a check on the animals, the elephants began to suffer.

Stop the trade

The Thai government has a team of rangers trying to put a stop to the logging but they have to patrol an area twice the size of Britain. And the animal hospital hopes to expand to treat and rehabilitate more of the elephants working secretly in the forests.

Paul hopes that the *Newsround Extra* on the elephants played a part in raising awareness of the problem. "If they see something they don't like, the viewers write in and they are absolutely furious especially about the treatment of some animals. If people contact us we can put them in touch with the right organisations who can then tell them how they can help."

All about animals

The elephants in Thailand are just one of the many animal issues that have been covered on *Newsround*. Just recently dancing bears in Turkey and Greece and a killer whale in captivity in Mexico have also been featured.

One of the reasons, says Paul, is that young people always want to hear about animal welfare. "They are madly interested in animals and they want to know what is happening to them and what they can do to help. Because of this keen interest we are always willing to cover animal related stories."

Newshound

Paul has to be prepared to jet off around the world at a moment's notice. And he has a word of warning to anyone who thinks they would love to do his job. "It totally disrupts your social life because you can never be sure what you're going to be doing from one day to the next.

"His job is not as glamorous as it may seem. To get to Thailand, Paul and the *Newsround* crew had to undertake a tiring journey. They flew to Bangkok (the capital of Thailand) and spent a day waiting to get permission to film. They then had a half-day journey by jeep to the forests in the north.

Despite some of these hassles, Paul still enjoys working for *Newsround* where he has been a reporter for the past four years. "Working on *Newsround* we look at things with a different perspective because we are working with a young audience. It's great because it is always interesting."

Yolanda Brooks

Write in

Animal Action Club members are always ready to write letters on the issues they care about. So, if you see an animal welfare issue that you are interested in on *Newsround*, write in and let them know what you thought. The address is: *Newsround*, BBC Television Centre, Wood Lane, London W12 7RJ. If you write in, you may see more reports on the issues you care most about.

BBC

Ear inspection: Paul takes a closer look.

Emergency!

Thousands of cats and dogs owe their lives to the hard-working staff at the RSPCA's Manchester & Salford Branch Clinic in Greater Manchester. Yolanda Brooks of *Animal World* takes a look behind the scenes.

Inspection time: These kittens are suffering from severe ringworm.

Life at the RSPCA's Manchester & Salford Branch Clinic is busy, busy, busy. With 600-700 animals to see a week and 400 operations to carry out each month, there's no time for idle chit-chat. When the staff open the doors every morning they have no idea what to expect and have to be ready to react to any emergency.

The clinic treats the pets of people who receive state benefits such as family credit, unemployment benefit and income support so cannot afford to pay for private veterinary treatment. Without the RSPCA, many of these animals would go without help.

Team spirit

At Salford, good team work is essential to make sure that everything runs smoothly and that as many animals as possible get treated. There are 15 members of staff including the veterinary manager, two veterinary surgeons, clinic assistants, administrator, receptionist, clinic supervisor, bookkeeper, fully-qualified veterinary nurses and trainees. As well as the day shifts, one member of staff has to stay on at the clinic overnight to keep an eye on the animals that are kept in.

Veterinary nurse Shelley Heald says that working for the RSPCA is completely different from working at a private veterinary practice. "It's a lot busier than any of the places that I've worked at before and I'm mainly dealing with the smaller animals such as cats and dogs."

Shelley has been a qualified veterinary nurse for three years and is in charge of the two trainee nurses at the clinic. Because Shelley has passed all her veterinary nurse exams, she can also perform minor operations. "We can now carry out minor surgical tasks such as stitching and dental work which is really helpful here because the vets are then free to do other work."

Litter control

One of the most important operations carried out by the clinic is neutering, says veterinary manager David Yates. "We carry out about 300 neutering operations a month and the main reason we do this is to try and reduce the dog population. There are far too many dogs around here and many of them end up roaming the streets.

"If people would get their animals neutered, there would be fewer dogs and fewer animal welfare problems," he says.

Another big problem facing dogs in the area is parvo virus. This is a deadly disease for dogs unless they have been vaccinated and several dogs in Salford have already died. The virus is spread easily because there are so many dogs in the area. The clinic staff are well trained at spotting the symptoms of the virus and can treat infected dogs quickly.

Cats have problems too. Feline leukaemia is a disease affecting thousands of cats. Like parvo virus, there is a vaccination to prevent its spread. But, says David, many owners don't bother to vaccinate their animals, causing more suffering in the long run. "A cat with feline leukaemia will have lots of problems throughout its life and will not live as long as an ordinary cat."

Recovery time: A Yorkshire terrier waits to go home.

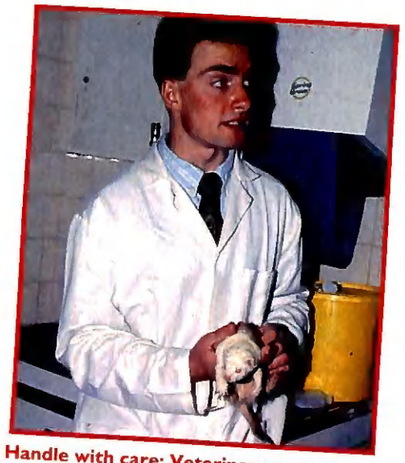
Getting ready: A dog is prepared for surgery.

Check up

In just a couple of hours David sees dozens of cats and dogs. Some of them are just returning for a check-up after an operation and some just need ointments for skin infections. But other animals come in with more serious conditions.

A family of six-week-old kittens are brought in suffering from severe ringworm. The owner decides to hand them over to the RSPCA because he cannot cope with the extra care needed to ensure they get well again.

Sometimes, animals need to be operated on immediately and today a Labrador which has had an accident



Handle with care: Veterinary manager David Yates checks a ferret.

on a railway line is one of the first in the operating room. When the operation is over, says David, the animal will need extra care for it to recover quickly. "We can't have the dog running in the street tomorrow. It is up to the owner to make sure the dog rests or it will never get better. The owners play an important role in keeping their animals healthy."

Treating dogs is one of David's favourite parts of the job. "It's easier to work with cats but I prefer dogs because I have a couple of my own and I'm used to having them around the house."

Despite enjoying his job, there are some things that David would rather not do. "What I don't like is treating all the weird things like snakes. Because you don't treat very many, you always have to read books on the subject to make sure you're getting it right. You can't know everything about every single animal that comes in. That's why you sometimes need to talk to other vets and get their advice."

Shell success

But David remembers with great satisfaction the only time that he had to operate on a tortoise. "We had a tortoise with a tumour on the side of its neck which was very rewarding to do. We had never given an anaesthetic to a tortoise before so it was a very delicate operation. But it worked very well and it recovered."

Life would certainly be a lot easier if he worked at a quiet private practice but David has no regrets about working for the clinic. "The work is certainly interesting because we get to see so many animals," says David. "And the animals that we treat are the ones that need our help the most and that certainly is a challenge."

All photographs RSPCA/Andrew Linscott

Op time: A vet carries out an emergency operation on a pregnant bitch.

READERS OFFER

The RSPCA 'Creature Collection' Knitting Kits

These kits are only available to readers of "Animal World" and "Animal Life".
All kits have a colour pattern and sufficient yarn to knit **ONE** garment in any of six sizes from 22" - 32" (56cm - 81cm).
"Sheep" and "Lion" are available in Double Knitting and Aran.
"Hedgehog" and " Frog" are available in Chunky and Aran.

ORDER FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

_____ POST CODE _____

Please send me the following:	£	p
.....Sheep kits in Double Knitting (Capri blue) @ £10.95 each		
.....Sheep kits in Aran Knitting (Everglade) @ £17.45 each		
.....Frog kits in Aran Knitting (Red) @ £17.45 each		
.....Frog kits in Chunky Knitting (Cerise) @ £12.45 each		
.....Hedgehog kits in Aran Knitting (Rose Blush) @ £17.45 each		
.....Hedgehog kits in Chunky Knitting (Natural) @ £12.45 each		
.....Lion kits in Aran Knitting (Biscuit) @ £17.45 each		
.....Lion kits in Double Knitting (Natural) @ £10.95 each		
Plus post and packing	2	00
Total		

Please send cheques/postal orders to:
Hannah (UK) Ltd. PO Box 365, Dunstable, BedsLU6 3TG.
Allow 28 days for delivery. Full money back guarantee if kit returned within 7 days.
AW/1/94

FROG
Aran Knitting Kit - Red main colour
Chunky Knitting Kit - Cerise main colour

HEDGEHOG
Chunky Knitting Kit - Natural main colour
Aran Knitting Kit - Rose Blush main colour

LION
Double Knitting Kit - Natural main colour
Aran Knitting Kit - Biscuit main colour

SHEEP
Double Knitting Kit - Capri Blue main colour
Aran Knitting Kit - Everglade main colour

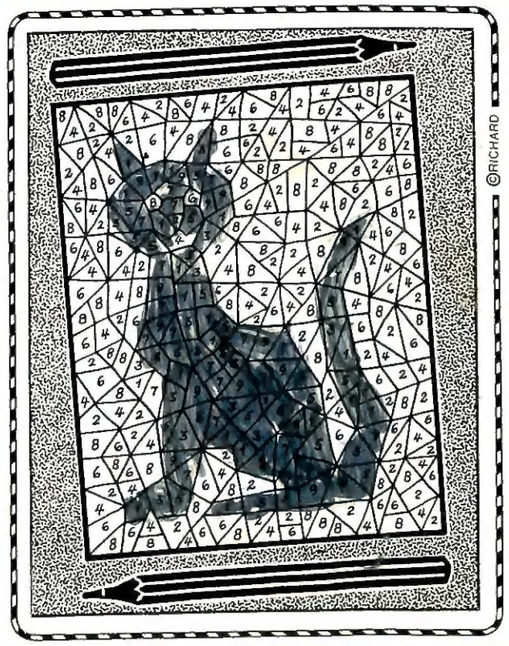
WORD LADDER

Complete this word ladder by changing one letter of each word per step. Each new word must be found in the dictionary.

BAT	CAT
☐☐☐	☐☐☐
☐☐☐	☐☐☐
☐☐☐	☐☐☐
COW	DOG

FROG MAZE

Find out how these frogs leap through the maze to meet each other.



ODD JOB

Shade in the sections which contain an odd number to find the hidden animal.

DEEP SEA PUZZLE

Dive into this wordsearch to find the following sea creatures:
Barnacle, Crab, Herring, Lobster, Mussel, Octopus, Plankton, Porpoise, Seal, Shark, Shrimp, Starfish, Squid, Turtle, Whale.

T	F	P	O	R	P	O	I	S	E	S
B	U	S	T	A	R	F	I	S	H	U
A	A	R	E	S	H	A	R	K	P	P
R	D	E	T	A	A	W	E	M	L	O
N	I	E	H	L	L	E	T	U	A	T
A	U	L	S	N	E	R	S	S	N	C
C	Q	A	P	C	R	A	B	S	K	O
L	S	H	R	I	M	P	O	E	T	R
E	L	W	L	I	H	S	L	L	O	J
E	O	S	Y	H	E	R	R	I	N	G

Using each letter only once, the remaining letters will make up three more sea creatures beginning with J, S and P!

ANSWERS
Word Ladder: Cat, bat, bag, bog, Dog; Bat, rat, cat, cot, Cow.
Odd job: Cat
Deep Sea Puzzle: jellyfish, seahorse and prawn.

WORKING WIT

In the latest of the Animal World series, Working With Animals, Jason Raynor gives Yolanda Brooks the low down on his job as an RSPCA kennel assistant.

It's no easy life being a kennel assistant. You have to have a tough stomach, a sensible head and a big heart. And Jason Raynor, who works at the RSPCA's Woodside Animal Centre in Leicester fits the bill. Jason, 20, has been working as a kennel assistant for three years and knows the good as well as the unhappy side of working with animals.

Just the Job

Starting work at the Woodside centre was a natural step for Jason who has been mad keen on animals since he was just knee high. "I have always been interested in animals and this is the sort of job I have always wanted to do."

Jason was so eager to work with animals, that he started out as a volunteer at the centre and when the offer of a full-time job came up he grabbed it. Now Jason works as a member of a 14-strong team which ensures that all the animals that come into the centre receive the best care possible.

A kennel assistant has to learn to work with a wide variety of animals and Jason has gained experience in working with cats, dogs, rabbits, goats as well as wild animals such as foxes and badgers.

He is also a bit of a pig expert after helping to care for Peanuts and Sam, the centre's two Vietnamese pot bellied pigs.

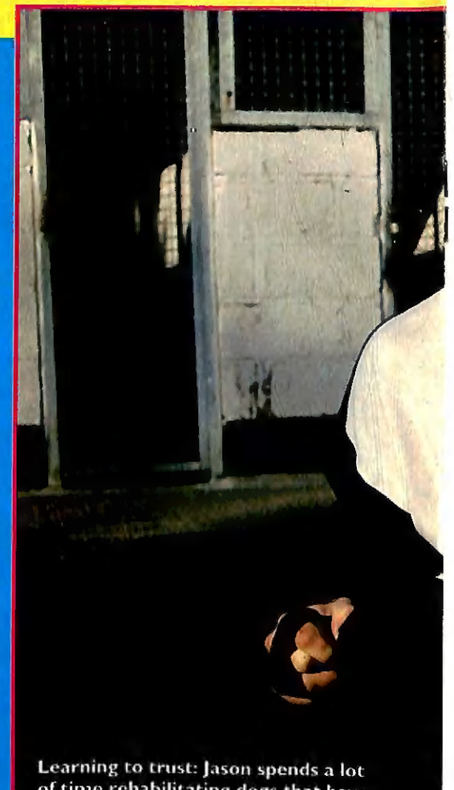
Spick and Span

Like all kennel assistants, Jason has lots and lots of cleaning to do. First thing in the morning, all the kennels have to be cleaned both inside and out to prevent the spread of disease. It is not a pleasant job says Jason but you have to be able to tough it out. "You wouldn't believe the smell that comes out of the kennels first thing in the morning. We have had people come down to the kennels before they have been cleaned out and they just can't take it. It is a smell you have to get used to if you work here."

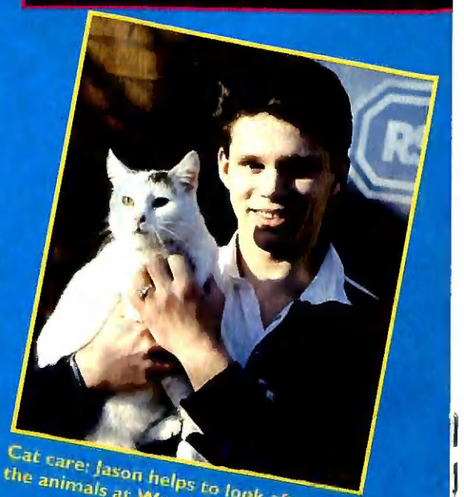
Seeing a lot of cruelty case animals is another downside of the job. "I would be lying if I said that seeing animals that had been badly treated didn't affect me but it is something that you have to deal with. Sometimes you get a dog that is in such a bad state that you want to go out and hit the person who did it. But you know that is not sensible and the best thing I can do is to care for it and help it get better."

Making friends

Helping animals recover from their ordeal is another important part of Jason's job. "We have a lot of dogs that come in here that don't like men because they have been battered by a man. You don't seem to get many men working in kennels and the good thing is that with me being here, I can work



Learning to trust: Jason spends a lot of time rehabilitating dogs that have been cruelly treated.



Cat care: Jason helps to look after all of the animals at Woodside.

Kennel a

SNAP HAPPY

RSPCA supporter Chloe Lewis picked up the top prize of a Sad Sam cuddly toy after winning an RSPCA photographic competition in London. Chloe, 10, from Bromley in Kent, celebrated her success with the family dog, Bruno.

GREAT FETE

A garden fete organised by animal-friendly sisters Marion and Chloe Messer from Herstmonceux in East Sussex proved to be a great success. The fete, which was held in their grandparents' garden, raised £20.38 for animal welfare work. Well done girls.

SHORT REPORTS

- Mark Briggs, 12, and his brother Liam, aged 6, bought tins of cat and dog food to help the Food Appeal at their local RSPCA animal centre in Halifax. The brothers also raised £15 for the Society by recycling aluminium cans.
- A 15-mile sponsored walk by pupils at the Harvey Grammar School in Folkestone, Kent, raised £2,000 for the RSPCA's Kent Folkestone & District Branch.
- Claire Bristow and Gemma Hodges from Salisbury in Wiltshire, raised a magnificent £60 by organising raffles and selling cakes on behalf of the RSPCA.
- Sarah Johnson, 11, from Chellaston in Derby was as quiet as a mouse when she took part in a sponsored silence to raise funds for animal welfare. Sarah collected £8.60 for her efforts.
- Animal active pupils from Avenue Middle School in Earlham, Norwich have started a letter writing campaign to try and stop the long distance transport of animals for slaughter. The concerned pupils have already written to government ministers, local politicians and the local newspaper.

win win win

RSPCA/Paul Gravel

Here's your chance to win an RSPCA Animal Trek. Take part in our easy to enter competition and you could be the lucky reader going on the Cagey Questions Animal Trek in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire. Trekkers will visit the National Birds of Prey Centre, explore the Gloucestershire countryside, see dozens of animals and meet lots of animal experts.

When the sun goes down the fun continues with action-packed evenings at the Slimbridge Youth Hostel in the heart of the beautiful Gloucestershire countryside. This great trek runs from 12.30pm on Sunday 7 August until 2pm on Friday 12 August 1994.

All you have to do to enter this fantastic competition is to say why you want to go on the Cagey Questions trek in no more than 25 words. Please send your answers with your name, age and address on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope to: Trek Comp, *Animal World*, RSPCA, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HG. Remember - do not use more than 25 words.

All competition entrants must be members of the Animal Action Club, aged between 8 and 17, and must have the permission of their parents or guardians before entering. The winner will have to provide his/her own transport to and from the Slimbridge Youth Hostel. The closing date for this fantastic competition is Friday 3 June 1994.

Trekkers: You too could enjoy an RSPCA Animal Trek.

WHAT'S NEW FOR YOU?

The closing date for all competitions and offers is 1 July 1994.

VIDEO

Bambi

Produced by: Walt Disney Classics
Price: £14.99
Available from: All major video stockists for a limited period only

Disney's most famous deer is now on video. Join Bambi as he experiences fun and adventure growing up in the wild. Meet his forest friends too including his best friend Thumper the rabbit.

PRODUCTS

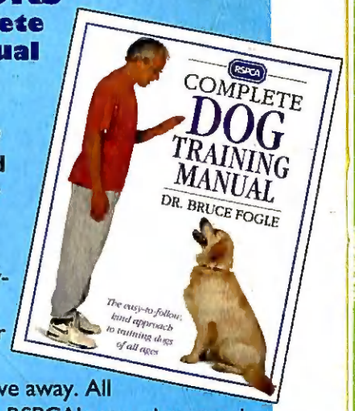
Animal T-Shirts

Available by mail order from: Studio Rufus, (Dept AW), Old Station House, Barney, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 0AD; Telephone: 0328 878798
Regular price: £10.99 + £1.95 p & p
As a special offer *Animal World* readers can buy the T-shirts (size medium) for £9.99 + p & p and receive a free cat badge when you place your order. Don't forget to also state which colour and design you would like.

Set out in style this summer by wearing one of these colourful animal T-shirts. Available in pink, green, white and grey with a choice of four great animal designs - cats, pigs, dogs and owl.

BOOKS

The RSPCA Complete Dog Training Manual by Bruce Fogle
Published by: Dorling Kindersley Price: £12.99
Available from: All good bookshops from 12 May 1994



Train your dog to be the perfect pooch. This step-by-step guide, complete with colour photos, is a must for all dog owners.

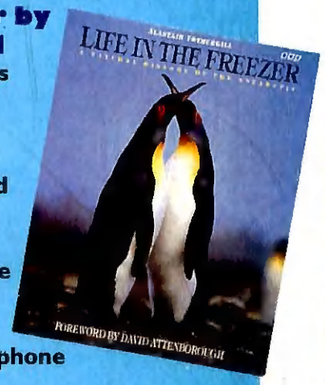
We have three books to give away. All you have to do is name the RSPCA's annual mongrel dog show. Answers to: DOG/*Animal World*.

The Ozone Friendly Biodegradable Creepy Crawly Joke Book by Teresa Green
Published by: Mammoth (Reed Children's Books)
Price: £2.50 Available from: All good bookshops

Did you hear about the lioness who got towed away? She parked on a yellow lion. Boom! Boom! Packed full of jokes - you're sure to be in stitches.

You can win one! Just tell us - how many legs does a spider have? Answers to: JOKE/*Animal World*.

Life In The Freezer by Alastair Fothergill
Published by: BBC Books
Price: £18.99
Available also on video presented by David Attenborough. Produced by: BBC Enterprises
Price: £19.99
The full series is available on video to educational establishments. For further information telephone 081 576 2541



If you watched this brilliant television series you are sure to want to get this book and video. We have six books to give away to the lucky readers who can answer this question: penguins can fly - true or false? Mark your entries: PENGUIN/*Animal World*.

Clare Jefferis

SO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT...

CREATURE FEATURE

Voles

Bruce Coleman Limited/Jane Burton

Meet one of Britain's tiniest mammals - the vole. They scurry around in the undergrowth hidden away from all but the sharpest eyes. *Animal World* takes a close-up look...

Although we rarely see them, voles are among the most common mammals in Britain. There are three main species living in Britain - the bank vole, field vole and water vole. Bank and field voles weigh between 18 and 40g - about the weight of two 50 pence pieces. Water

FLPA/Silvestris

Animal acrobat: A bank vole leaps across water.

voles are almost double the size and twice as heavy.

Spot the difference

It's easy to mistake voles for mice, but if you get the chance to take a closer look you will find that there are quite a few differences. While mice have smooth coats, voles have longer, shaggier fur. They have smaller eyes than mice and they don't have pointy noses. They also have much shorter tails than mice and rats.

Bank voles are the smallest of the species as they measure about 14.5cm from head to tail. Baby bank voles have grey coats which turn to a chestnut colour during their first moult. Field voles measure about 15cm from head to tail, with yellowish-brown fur. Water voles can grow up to 20cm long with brown or black coats.

Like all rodents, voles have front teeth that grow throughout their lives. They don't get too long because they are worn down by chewing on hard materials such as tree bark. These teeth are very strong and they can gnaw their way through tough nut shells.

Voles are mainly plant eaters and they feed on reeds and grasses, fruits, seeds, hazelnuts, flowers, moss, seeds and herbs. In the winter when there is little food around, or the ground is covered with snow, voles will strip the bark from trees to eat the nutrients underneath. Sometimes they will store food in the summer to eat in the winter when food is scarce.

Digging deep

Voles live in burrows and during very cold weather they huddle in nests to keep warm. Bank voles live in underground nests which they build in woodland and hedgerows and they search for food throughout the day and night.

Field voles dig shallow burrows but often they build their nests above ground. They will live in any area where grasses are found. Like bank voles they are out during the day and night searching for food.

Water voles are found near streams, rivers and canals where they burrow into banks with bolt holes above and below water. You are more likely to see a water vole than any other type of vole because they are more active during the day.

Each vole has its own home territory and marks out the area with droppings and other scent markings. This is a warning to other voles who will then keep out of the area. Being able to communicate by smell is very important for voles, especially during the breeding season when male and females need to find each other to mate.

The mating game

The vole breeding season usually runs from April to October but if the weather is mild and there is lots of food around, the season will last even longer. In good conditions, it is possible for one female to produce an average of four to six litters a year.

Aquila/J F Preedy

Dinner time: A bank vole feasts on blackberries.

Baby voles are born hairless and blind. Even water voles, which are the biggest of Britain's voles, are tiny. At birth they weigh in at 5g - that's less than a sheet of A4 paper.

The baby voles make high pitched noises that they cannot be heard by the human ear. When they get cold they call out to their mothers who will come and warm them up.

Their fur starts to grow after a few days and their eyes open soon after. In just a few weeks, the babies are ready to leave the nest and fend for themselves.

Very few voles live to see their first birthday - this is why it is important for them to breed often. The more babies that are born, the higher the chances are that some will survive. The biggest dangers facing voles are from predators such as owls, foxes, weasels, pine martens and wildcats. Water voles also have to watch out for pike when they are in the water.

Yolanda Brooks

Aquila/McWilkes

(above) Keeping warm: Baby bank voles snuggle up.

Bruce Coleman Limited/Jane Burton

(below) Above water: A water vole peaks out of its burrow.

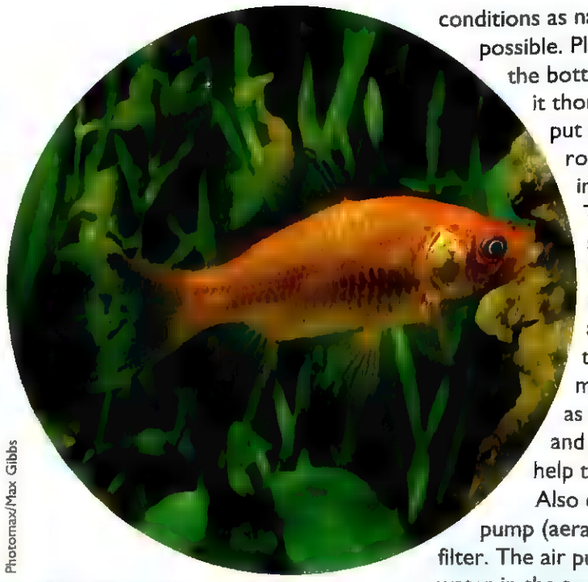
Looking after... goldfish

Goldfish are the number one pet in Britain according to a recent *Animal World* poll. Martin O'Halloran tells you how to look after them properly...

Did you know that well looked after goldfish can live up to 25 years - that's longer than almost any other pet! But not all goldfish live to this ripe old age because of the carelessness of their owners.

The key to successful goldfish ownership is doing your homework properly. Always go to a well-established shop and look very carefully at living conditions for the fish. Be wary if the tanks are dirty or cloudy, and if the fish are overcrowded or there are dead fish in some tanks. A good shop will be happy to answer any of your questions and will give lots of advice too.

Once you have decided what sort of goldfish you want you need to buy the right tank and get it ready for your fish's arrival.



Photomax/Max Gibbs

Natural look: Rocks and plants are important addditions to an aquarium.

Home from home

A fish tank (aquarium) needs a good surface area so that plenty of oxygen gets into the water (fish breathe oxygen dissolved in water). For every 2.5cm of fish body length, there should be 60sq cm of water surface. It's important that you get your maths right - if there are too many fish in the same tank, you may risk suffocating them. Your fish will soon grow, so start off by understocking the tank. Never get a tank less than 45cm long x 30cm wide x 30cm deep.

You should always try and create conditions as natural looking as possible. Place a layer of gravel at the bottom of your tank (wash it thoroughly first) and then put some smooth-sided rocks (sharp edges can injure fish) in the tank. The rocks will provide sheltering places. Aquarium plants are another useful addition and will make the aquarium look more like a real pond as well as provide food and shade for the fish and help to purify the water.

Also consider using an air pump (aerator) combined with a filter. The air pump helps to keep the water in the tank full of oxygen and can also work a filter to keep the water clean. Try and avoid having strong fumes nearby as this pollution will get into the tank water and could harm the fish.

Photomax/Max Gibbs

Popular pets: Common goldfish.

Most fish keepers put special strip lighting at the top of the tank. The plants need lighting if they are to grow properly and the lights may help you to see your fish better. Only a qualified person should put in your aquarium's electrical equipment.

Special care

You can use regular tap water for your aquarium although the chlorine must be removed first (let the water stand for at least 24 hours and give it an occasional stir). Carry out regular water changes (remove 10-20 per cent every two or three weeks) and replace with water of a similar temperature and quality to that of the tank water. You must also regularly remove dead leaves and algae, prune rapidly growing plants, and clean the cover-glass so that plants get the right amount of light.

Natural Science Photos/Pete Trevett

Fintastic: You can spot a fantail goldfish by its large tail fin.

Once you have set up your tank, you should leave it for about one week before introducing the goldfish. When your goldfish first arrives at your home, remember that they are very vulnerable to sudden changes in temperature. Often, they will be sold in plastic bags, so make sure that the bag is floated in the tank water for some time (allowing the temperatures to become about the same) before opening the bag and letting the fish swim out. When moving fish, it is important to protect them from injury by using a net or jug to catch them (never pick them up with your hands).

Know your fish

Fish cannot show us how they are feeling in the way that a cat or dog can. However, they still have many needs if their life is to be long and contented. For example, fish should not be near direct sunlight because they don't have any eyelids to protect their eyes.

Your goldfish will probably need two meals a day. You should buy specially-prepared goldfish food which is widely available from pet shops. It's a good idea to use a feeding ring (placed on the surface of the water) which makes cleaning a tank much easier.

Fish are shocked by sudden noises and vibrations, so don't allow visitors to tap the side of the tank. If they become frightened they may jump out of the water. Put a ventilated lid over the top of the tank to stop this from happening. Fish also don't like sudden light or darkness. So, turn off the lights in your tank before finally turning the room lights off.

Health check

If you keep your goldfish in the right conditions, they are likely to live a long and contented life. However, they may fall ill for a variety of reasons. Some signs of ill-health are: loss of appetite, gulping at the surface (possibly caused by oxygen starvation), sinking to the bottom, or scales which are injured or covered with fungus. If you think that your goldfish is ill for any reason, consult your veterinary surgeon.

Goldfish are often given as prizes at fetes and fairs. Never buy or win these fish unless you have a fully prepared fish tank waiting for them. The RSPCA believes that you should only buy goldfish from a well-established shop, having already learnt about the responsibilities of ownership.

Oxford Scientific Films/Max Gibbs

Looking good: Goldfish come in a wide variety of colours.

You can get a copy of *Care for your Goldfish - The Official RSPCA Pet Guide* from your local bookshop. Check out the other pet guides in this series too. There are 12 to collect including two newly updated and expanded guides - *Pony* and *Gerbil* which are out on 5 May 1994. Each book is full of advice on how to care for your pet complete with colour photographs and illustrations. The books published by HarperCollins cost £3.50 each and are available from all good bookshops.

PETS PIX

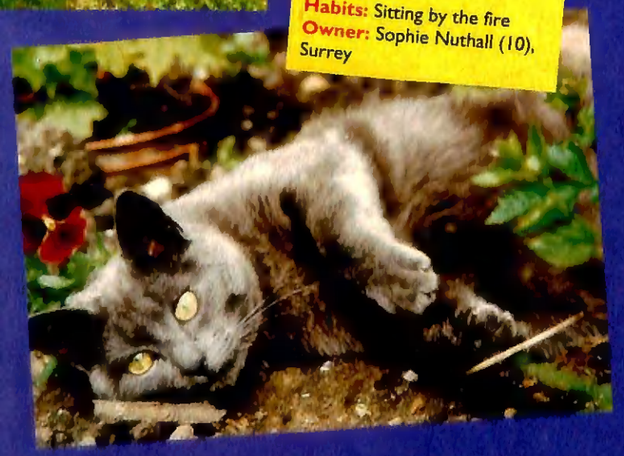
DAISY AND ROSIE
Type: Short-haired Dutch guinea pigs
Likes: Eating carrots and apples
Habits: Playing with the cat
Owner: Joanna Standing (12), East Sussex

CHLOE
Type: Black and white cat
Likes: Looking out of the window, sleeping and being fed
Hates: Being outside when it's raining
Owner: Kirsty Duncan (12), Glasgow

TILLY
Type: Old English sheep dog
Likes: Seeing Abbie's grandad and having her tummy rubbed
Habits: Chewing flip-flops
Hates: Having her face brushed
Owner: Abbie Stone (11), Hampshire

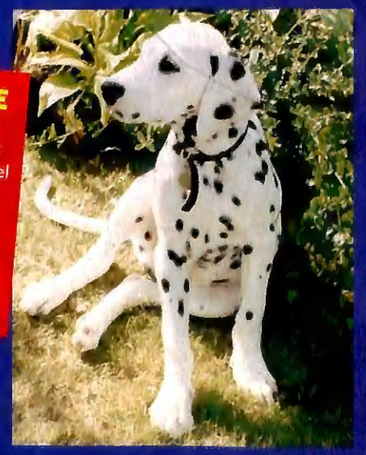
SILVER
Type: Welsh pony
Likes: Eating anything
Habits: Begging for food
Owner: Sadie Turrell (14), Norfolk

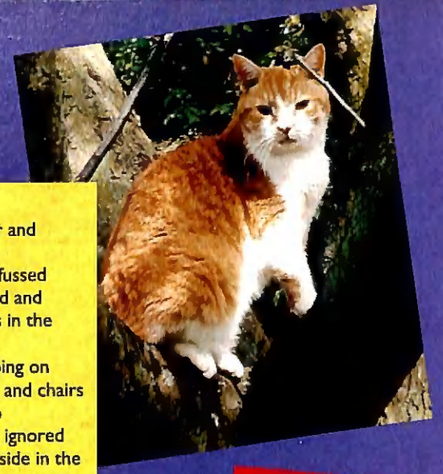
JESSICA
Type: British blue
Likes: Playing football with marbles
Habits: Sitting by the fire
Owner: Sophie Nuthall (10), Surrey



Send us your pet's photo together with your name, age and address to Pets Pix, *Animal World*, RSPCA, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HG. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like them returned.

CHARLIE
Type: Dalmatian
Likes: Everything except orange peel
Habits: Sneaking on the couch when no one is looking
Owner: Karina Jones (13), Essex





SAM
Type: Ginger and white tom
Likes: Being fussed over, being fed and climbing trees in the summer
Habits: Jumping on people's beds and chairs to go to sleep
Hates: Being ignored and going outside in the rain
Owner: Jessica Howden (13), North Yorkshire

FUDGE
Type: French lop-eared rabbit
Likes: Lettuce and yoghurt drops
Hates: Being put back in her hutch
Owner: Joanne Borland (14), Cheshire

BONNIE
Type: English springer spaniel
Likes: Muddy puddles and swimming
Habits: Pinching pegs and barking
Hates: Milk floats
Owner: Deborah Buckley (12), Cleveland

PERSEY
Type: Bantam
Likes: Looking after the other hen, Prudence
Habits: Sneaking out of the hut when Vivienne's not looking
Owner: Vivienne Lloyd (12), Birmingham

Meet David Grant, a hard-working RSPCA vet...

8.15am I haven't had much sleep. Last night's duty was a bit of a nightmare. It started about 10pm with a very fat old Labrador who was having difficulty giving birth. I operated - a caesarian section - this was not easy due to her age and fatness, but we got five live puppies out. She was put on a drip and I left her for all-night observation.

Then at 1am - a call most veterinary surgeons dread - a gastric torsion. This is a condition seen nearly always in large dogs where the stomach twists and gas cannot escape. This time it was Snowy a poodle. When I arrived he was in great pain and blown up like a barrel. I had to anaesthetize him, open up the stomach, release all the contents and put the stomach back in its normal position. It was not pleasant. This type of operation carries a high risk of death and I didn't give much for Snowy's chances. So here I am today, back in the hospital checking the two patients. The Labrador is not doing very well - we are having difficulty controlling the bleeding from the womb - while Snowy, who was very nearly dead when he arrived, is sitting up and quite alert. I keep both animals on drips and give the Labrador drugs to make its wound contract and hopefully stop the bleeding.

9am We have the usual large numbers of stray cats in. One five-month-old kitten was found in the Thames by a policeman. A plate of food and a warm blanket soon restores her to happiness.

10am I operate on a cat with an air gun pellet in her knee joint. I think she also panicked after being shot since she had been in a road accident as well. Those delinquents who shoot at cats and other animals might think twice about it if they saw the suffering it causes.

12pm I spay a bitch and microchip her. This dog has been having false pregnancies. Twice a year she produces milk and goes round the house whimpering for her non-existent puppies. The owner asked me if having a real litter of pups would help. But this is wrong. There are too many pups and not enough caring homes.

2pm A busy session in out-patients. I see two different families who have contracted skin disease from their animals. One has ringworm from a kitten and the other has caught mange from a puppy. Both were bought from pet shops. Although the treatment will be quite staightforward for both animals and humans , it reinforces my prejudice against certain pet shops. If people want a pet why not come to the RSPCA?

5pm I'm still worried about the ceasarian and I have a chat with my colleague who will be on duty tonight.

Welcome to the Animal Action Club!

Here's a chance to show that you're animal-friendly! Enter the RSPCA Care Awards, not only will you win Bronze, Silver, Gold and Animal Action Award badges, you'll have fun learning about animal welfare too. Here's what you have to do...

BRONZE

To win your Bronze, answer at least nine out of the first 13 questions and one of the last two questions correctly in our Care Award quiz. You'll get a sticker for your efforts. When you have three stickers (new or old) in your Care Award record book send it to us to get your Bronze and Silver badge details.

Send your record book along with a STAMPED, SAE (25cm x 30cm) to the Animal Action Club office at the usual RSPCA address.

SILVER

A Silver will involve getting down to some genuine wildlife watching. You'll need to undertake an animal project such as clearing a pond or studying a wild animal in your garden. Or even taking an animal study course at an approved study centre. Once you have received your Silver badge and certificate, only then will we send you the details on how to go for Gold.

ANIMAL ACTION AWARD

This award can only be entered when Bronze, Silver and Gold have been achieved. The applicant must be 14 years or over.

It needs to be a practical exercise ie... fund-raising, dog walking, litter collection, working at a vet's surgery, kennels, wildlife units, looking after school pets - an animal welfare activity where a special effort has been made.

Bronze Care Award Questions

All the answers to these questions can be found in this issue of *Animal World*.

1 Voles live in:
a Burrows
b Long grass
c Tree trunks

2 Goldfish can live up to:
a 25 years
b 25 days
c 16 years

3 What job does Jason Raynor do?
a Kennel assistant
b Dog beautician
c Veterinary surgeon

4 What is a mahout?
a An elephant handler
b A vegetable
c A Thai temple

5 What happens between 30 April and 1 May, 1994?
a National Party Week
b National Pet Week
c Feed the Birds Week

6 Which is Britain's largest vole?
a Giant vole
b River vole
c Water vole

7 How old is the RSPCA?
a 100 years old
b 170 years old
c 2,000 years old

8 What do goldfish breathe?
a Nitrogen
b Carbon Dioxide
c Oxygen

9 What is the RSPCA's mongrel dog show called?
a Supreme Champions
b Mongrels and Mutts
c Bounce Scruffts

10 Which RSPCA exhibition did Peter Simon attend?
a Acting for Animals
b Live & Kicking
c Action for Animals

11 What is an RSPCA Animal Trek?
a An animal-friendly holiday
b A sponsored dog walk
c A space travel programme

12 Which animal is on the increase in Britain?
a Wildcat
b Polar bear
c Polecat

13 Where did the recent glue slick occur?
a The Cornwall coast
b The Lancashire coast
c The Norfolk coast

14 Dogs and cats should be neutered because

.....

.....

.....

.....

15 You should always think carefully before buying goldfish because

.....

.....

Closing date for entries: 31 July 1994

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Age _____

Put the letters of the answers you have chosen into the boxes below:

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐

Question 14 _____

_____

Question 15 _____

_____

When you have three stickers send your completed Care Award record book to: Animal Action Club, RSPCA, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HG. **FOR A REPLY, ENCLOSE A STAMPED SAE.**

HOW TO JOIN

RSPCA Animal Action Club members are an important part of our national charity. Membership is open to all young people up to the age of 17 who care about the welfare of animals.

Each Animal Action Club member receives six copies a year of their own magazine *Animal World* and, when first joining, a folder, special membership badge, stickers, membership card and Care Award record book.

RSPCA Animal Action Club membership costs £4.50 a year. If you would like to join simply fill in the form above and send it, together with a cheque, made payable to RSPCA, or a postal order for £4.50 (please do not send cash) to: RSPCA Animal Action Club, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HG.

I wish to become an RSPCA Animal Action Club member and I enclose £4.50
PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Name _____

Address _____

_____

_____ Postcode _____

Date of Birth _____

To write to someone on this list, send your letter showing the number and the name of the penfriend you have chosen to: Penfriends, at our usual address. We will then forward your letter.

849 Jazz (14) who lives in the West Midlands enjoys listening to music and reading. She loves writing letters and would like to hear from penpals from all over the world.

850 If you like swimming or football then write to 6-year-old **Jamie** from West Sussex. He is a member of the Beavers and would love a penfriend.

851 Calling all German, guinea-pig crazy, vegetarians, aged 8-11! Drop a line to **Teresa** (9) from Norfolk. She can speak quite a lot of German and would like a penpal who speaks German and English. She likes gymnastics, writing poetry and animals. She will write to boys or girls.

852 All sports fans - get writing to **Janice** (11) from Lancashire. She is a keen netballer and loves sport, including swimming. She would like a penfriend between 10 and 12 years old.

853 Sarah (15) from Hampshire likes listening to Extreme and Nirvana, watching *Have I Got News for You* and meeting people. She has a crazy dog(!) and is looking for male or female penpals over 13 years old.

854 Sarah (10) from the West Midlands loves Queen and watching murder mysteries. She was born in Canada and would love a Canadian penpal.

855 11-year-old **Melanie** from Yorkshire likes all kinds of animals and music. She loves reading and supports lots of groups, like the RSPCA. She would like to hear from boys or girls aged 10-13.

856 Sporty **Stuart** (14) comes from Caerphilly in South Wales. He is looking for a penfriend who is about the same age and loves playing computer/video games.

857 Would anyone out there like an Australian penpal? **Amy** (13) lives in Queensland and would love to hear from any 13-year-olds living in Scotland. She loves horseriding and looking after pets.

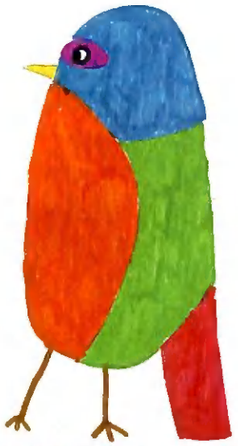
GOLD CARE AWARD WINNER

Murray Garrard from Torquay in Devon was awarded the RSPCA's Gold Care Award after completing a project on bloodsports. Murray, 12, impressed the judges with the high standard of his work.

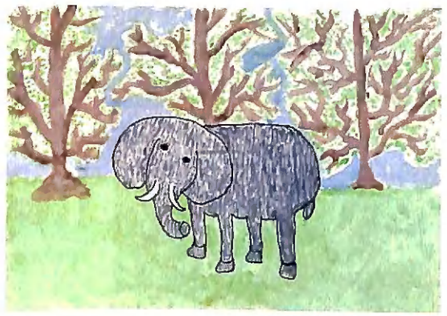
FAME AT LAST

Send your entries, with your name, age and address on the back to: *Fame At Last* at our usual *Animal World* address. Make sure the writing on the back of your drawing doesn't show through. We are sorry, but we are unable to return them.

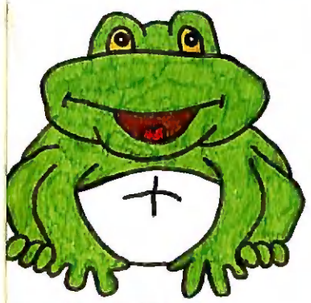
Send us your animal poems, paintings and drawings and we'll print a selection of the very best ones in each issue. Make your drawings as colourful as possible. Your poems don't have to rhyme: good blank verse - the stuff that doesn't rhyme - is brilliant....



Sarah Wain (10)



Emma Pickard (11)



Jonathan Scott (11)

THE RABBIT

The rabbit sits in a field,
Maybe eating,
Or maybe just warming
itself in the dying sun.
Suddenly a warning
stamp.
A flash of brown and
white,
And it is gone.
All that is left
Is the movement of
disturbed grass.

Tammy Lord (14)

Alan David Marks (10)

Sarah Amos (8)

Jo Ritchie (13)

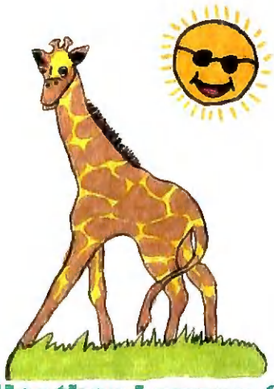
Hannah John (9)

Michelle Leech (11)

HORSERIDING

I wish I could capture this
evening's horseriding.
Grab hold of it
and splat it down into a book
So that it would all be there,
All the loveliness, forever.
But sweet smells
And happiness
And sweat soaked horse hair
And the sounds of clinking
bits and
creaking saddles
Wouldn't squash into a book
very well.
You'd have to jump up and
down on it
To get it to close.
And all the sunlight of the
April evening
Would leak out the edges.

Sally Hayward (17)



Heather Lawson (12)

Hannah Smithers (11)

Rebecca Ley (12)

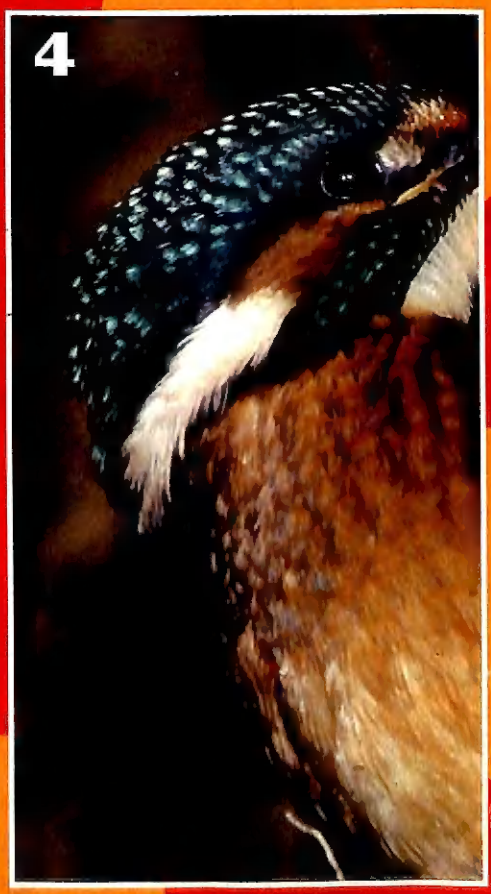
Danielle Leaver (7)

Well done to everyone who featured in this issue's *Fame At Last* pages. And don't forget to keep your entries rolling in - because everyone featured in this issue and the rest of the 1994 *Fame At Last* pages will receive a set of Yikes! colour crazy pencils and erasers from Berol Ltd. Each set includes Yikes! Treads, Triangles and Colouring Pencils and Yikes! Eraserama.

yikes!

These creatures all have the colour orange somewhere or everywhere on their bodies. Can you tell us what they are and win a prize! - kingfisher, butterfly, guinea-pig, starfish and golden lion tamarin.

Hot Shots



Send your answers on a postcard or on the back of a sealed envelope together with your name, age and address to: HOT SHOTS/*Animal World*, RSPCA, Causeway, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 1HG.
The first ten correct answers drawn on the closing date will win a specially selected book.
Closing date: 1 July 1994